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'AWOOO' for Winterdance

Winterdance Dogsled Tours held an Open House on Sunday, March 2 to celebrate 25 years in business in the Haliburton Highlands. The event was attended by many, and offered the opportunity to meet the Winterdance Team, visit the dogs, and celebrate the successes of the past quarter century. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Scott comes out on top once again

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

With Doug Ford sweeping the province blue in a historic third consecutive win for the Conservative Premier, Laurie Scott has once again secured her position as MPP for the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Brock riding.

The 98 polls across the region closed at 9 p.m. on Feb. 27, and within minutes, the results started rolling in online.

Local voter turnout in the riding was pegged at a mere 48.91 per cent - only a slight increase from 2022's 48.14 per cent. Despite all the buzz leading up to this year's election, there still seemed to be a low interest when it came to actually casting a ballot.

At the Haliburton Legion voting site, one support staff noted a "steady stream of voters" throughout the duration of the election day. Advance polls were held in Haliburton on Feb. 20 to 22, and saw a low number of voters show up, which lent to the provincial average of a mere six per cent of eligible voters utilizing the advance polling stations.

There are over 11 million eligible voters in Ontario, and just over five million cast their ballots in this snap election, totalling approximately 45.4 per cent of Ontarians. Some credit the low turnout to the poor weather conditions that smacked parts of the GTA on election day. Historically, elections are held in warmer months, in an effort to mitigate voter suppression. A provincial election has not been held in Ontario since 1981.

"I don't care who you vote for," said one voter waiting in line at the Legion on election day. "As long as you're voting for change."

While discussing votes in public still seems to be largely off the table, some

see FORD page 2

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Ford adamant about protection; 'Canada not for sale'

from page 1

locals were eager to share their thoughts. "I usually vote orange (NDP)," said one voter. "They're the only ones who care about us, and we have to keep that party alive." Others going to and from the Legion echoed their sentiment, with another sharing they had just voted Green for the first time. "Our environment has to come first," they said.

Scott secured her seventh term in the riding with a margin of 14,818 votes, totalling 26,506, according to Elections Ontario. Liberal candidate Alison Bennie came second with 11,688 (22.91 per cent), NDP's Barbara Doyle snatched third with 6,993 (13.7 per cent) and local Green Party rep Tom Regina finished fourth with 2,602 votes (5.1 per cent).

When it came to fringe candidates, New Blue's Jacquie Barker garnered 1,223 votes, Brian Kerr of the Ontario Party received 926 votes, Gene Balfour, an Independent, earned 426 votes, Libertarian Zachary Tisdale got 385 votes and Bill Denby of the Freedom Party managed 278 votes.

Scott celebrated with her supporters in Lindsay following the win, sharing that her strategy of going door-to-door as opposed to participating in candidates meetings and debates seemed beneficial.

The last time the Ontario government formed three consecutive majority governments was in 1959, with PC leader Leslie M. Frost, who hailed from Lindsay.

The buzz word for Premier Doug Ford during this election seemed to be "mandate" - noting that he intends to get some clear-cut legislation in place in an effort to defend Ontarians from the impending tariff threats from Donald Trump.

"Donald Trump thinks he can break us," Ford announced upon winning a Conservative majority during the late evening of Feb. 27. "Canada is not for sale."

Laurie Scott heads door-to-door in Lindsay in an effort to drum up votes prior to the Feb. 27 election. /photo courtesy of Instagram

Haliburton County sees long–term population growth

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

For Haliburton County to best meet the future needs of its residents, it'd be a good idea to have some idea as to how that population could grow.

The county is responsible for identifying, coordinating, and allocating population, dwelling, and employment projections. This includes determining areas for growth and setting targets for intensification and redevelopment.

It's a practice that's done by the upper tier every decade or so to provide a look at where and how growth will take place.

Elizabeth Purcell, the county's planning director, said the growth strategy will help accurately and efficiently guide growth across the county over the coming years.

Watson and Associates Economists, an economic consulting firm, presented the county's 2025 Growth Strategy when council met Feb. 26. The plan projections include Algonquin Highlands, Dysart, Minden Hills, and Highlands East.

Those being the municipalities that make up the county, of course.

It is anticipated that there will be an annual permanent population growth of one per cent and a projected permanent population of 28,200 by 2051. Water and wastewater servicing capacity constraints of the four lower tier municipalities will limit the scope of growth throughout the county.

Permanent population in Minden Hills is expected to grow 32 per cent by 2051. Dysart is expected to grow by 36 per cent by that year and Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East could see 14 per cent and 18 per cent growth respectively.

The aging population will have bearing on future housing and service needs. The number of residents 65 years old and older is set to increase 45 per cent in 2051. Provincially, growth of that population segment is pegged to be 20 per cent by 2046.

In Haliburton County, population growth primarily comes from inter-provincial migration.

And the county is projected to see an increase of about 3,800 permanent housing units between 2021-2051.

That includes 68 newly constructed units a year and 58 seasonal dwellings converted to permanent households annually. The conversion of cottages is expected to represent about 40 per cent of the overall growth in permanent households.

The report forecasts 91 per cent of housing growth will occur in rural areas with nine per cent in the urban settlement areas.

And there's expected to be 1,500 more jobs in the county by 2051, according to the consultants' final report.

Jamie Cook of Watson and Associates, said the strategy shows a long-term forecast for population growth and will form a foundation for the county's Development Charges Background Study that's happening now.

He said the outlining theme of the strategy was a more outcome-based and less prescriptive approach to land use planning. It's part of the province's hope to have 1.5 million homes built over the next 10 years.

"A key thrust of this document is to remove unnecessary prescriptive process and restrictions to development to accommodate more housing growth," Cook said.

Statistics Canada data into housing growth from 2016 to 2021 doesn't necessarily reflect new home builds. Rather, it includes the conversion of seasonal residences to permanent residences as new housing.

"That's one of the key drivers of the growth increase you're seeing in the housing numbers from 2016 to 2021 relative to the 2011 to 2016 period, the previous period," Cook said.

He added that there hasn't been a spike in new housing construction activity, but there has been a peak in the number of dwelling conversions, particularly during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 to 2022. That's when people were skidding out of the more populated areas and spending more time in cottage country.

"And that's what's been showing up in this data," he said. "Over the long term, we do expect to see the number of conversions to moderate and we would also expect the amount of actual housing constriction moderating slightly as well."

Cook said they've predicted an average of about 125 new houses, which includes conversions, every year of the long-term growth forecast.

"We would recommend that the county undertake a review of its servicing capacity and solutions to ultimately provide water and wastewater services over the long term," he said. "If solutions are identified, we would recommend the county re-look at these long-term population forecasts in the future."

Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said he believes the information in the growth strategy shows a level of optimism.

"It's nice to see people are still optimistic," Fearrey said.

Coun. Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, said he has a hard time digesting the report's reference to seasonal.

"Seasonal used to be more or less related to a specific set of time," he said. "Be it May to September. I think the more correct term now is part-time (residents) in the sense that people are no longer coming in any specific season. They're coming on a part-time basis."

Regardless of part-time versus permanent demographics, Ryall said the municipalities continue to have the same infrastructure against the new demands being placed on that infrastructure.

"And we still don't have any more taxes to pay that with," Ryall said. "It is what it is. We've still got the problem of how do we pay for what we need to have?"

"We could call them second homeowners," Cook said. "We could call them part-time, full-time. We are addressing the service impacts in terms of the development charge needs and servicing needs in the (development charges) study."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, Algonquin Highlands' deputy mayor, said the data about the conversion rates from seasonal to permanent housing was very interesting.

"And how why I think that's particularly helpful for us here at this table is because it gives us a prelude to the sort of service need changes that are going to occur that had nothing to do with population growth so much as demands on services that exist at a higher rate," she said.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said confusion abounds when dealing with government. The population statistics spoken about could be from Ministry of Health data as opposed to a whole other pile of information that's influenced by the Ministry of Finance.

"As we can see, they're different," he said, and added that he understands the growth strategy will be the county's official document.

"My concern is that we have to understand that this isn't the Bible," Carter said. "This is something that is indicative of what our situation is."

Juna opens it's doors

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's finally here. Fine foodies unite to welcome Haliburton's newest eatery: Juna restaurant, officially opening on March 7.

The Italian restaurant, located at 210 Highland Street in the heart of Haliburton, was originally slated for a December opening. But a series of challenges arose for owners Terri Mathews-Carl and Christoph Carl when it came to moving ahead. "We had a lot of difficulty and hardships when it came to attaining permits from the township," Terri said.

The couple are no strangers to the restaurant scene, as the owners of Rhubarb Restaurant in Carnvarvon. They were diligent when it came to making sure all details were in place for the opening of Juna, but misunderstandings with the municipality took to the forefront.

With the stamp of approval for opening finally in place, Terri is optimistic about the presence of the new restaurant in town. "We wanted an upscale vibe that's also comfortable," she noted, nodding to the warm glow emanating from the amber candle holders on each table. "But we wanted to still make it cozy, still make it approachable."

With rich blue hues and vivid art by local photographer Dana McMullen adorning the walls, Juna feels like an entirely new space.

Some would recall that the building housed Cindy's clothing store for years on the main street, and prior to that, it was home to the Butcher Block, which can be seen in many old photos of Highland Street over the years.

Terri noted that the building itself is "ancient," she laughed, sharing that they could not find records dating back to when it was originally built.

But she and her team were able to retrofit the space to accommodate the new restaurant, with 26 spacious and comfortable seats. "We made sure to use every space we had effectively," she noted as we toured the building, with the neat and clean kitchen meticulously arranged and ready for business.

ACM Designs took the lead on the decor of the restaurant, with Terri adding her own style to the space. Each and every detail is put into place; right down to the engraved pepper grinders on each table.

It's a well thought-out vision, with Nico Haedicke as the head contractor, who will also double as the front of house manager upon opening.

As opening day approaches, Terri noted that they are already sold-out for the first weekend in business, and moving forward, she strongly suggests people make reservations in advance, due to the small and intimate nature of the space. The restaurant will be open Thursdays to Monday through the week. For more information, visit junahaliburton.com.

The front entry of Haliburton's newest restaurant: Juna. /photo by Danielle Meredith

The interior of the restaurant was created by ACM Designs, with art by Dana McMullen. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Dysart supports energy efficient affordable housing

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Places for People asked Dysart township council for permission to seek federal funding to improve a property's energy efficiency.

Fay Martin, property development committee chairperson at Places for People, told council when it met Feb. 25 that the group is working with Longview Services Inc. to develop a plan to bring a recently purchased Highland Street eight-plex in Haliburton Village up to standard.

Improving the property's energy efficiency will increase its long-term development potential. Martin said municipal approval and an identifiable township representative is required to proceed with application for a Federation of Canadian Municipalities grant.

Council agreed to give its support to help the grant application process.

Martin's organization would like to apply for a preliminary planning grant from the Green Municipal Fund.

This grant provides up to $30,000 to address up to 80 per cent of the cost of early development work. This includes working with appropriate experts to assess the current functioning of the building and evaluate alternatives to increase energy efficiency. It also covers the usual work of engaging a development team to work up a plan that includes needs assessment, financial strategy, stakeholder engagement.

"There is no risk and no obligation to the municipality: this is outside money coming into the community to help us explore if and how we can improve our housing stock and lay a foundation for future development," Martin wrote in a letter to council.

If Place for People is successful with the grant, the group will apply for follow-up grants to implement the plan.

"At that point, we will be engaging with the township as would any other developer of housing in the village," Martin said.

Places for People provides charitable housing for people with low to moderate income who live and work in Haliburton County. The group has 20 housing units over five properties.

"Of those 20 units, 17 are deeply affordable," Martin said.

Of those 17, the first seven that were acquired are supported by a municipal rent subsidy. Those are single family dwellings and duplexes. The group's more recent acquisitions are market rental housing.

"We also pay for utilities, so we are very anxious to improve the energy efficiency," she said.

Longview Services has a 20-year history of working with non-profits to renovate existing properties or build new projects that are energy efficient and in sync with the mandate and capacity of the organization.

"As you all know, we need affordable rental housing stock quite badly in this community," Martin said.

Point in Time Centre seeks volunteer directors

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

A Haliburton County youth organization received accreditation from the Canadian Centre for Accreditation.

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents and its Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub were accredited for four years by the CCA. The status is in recognition of the group's continuous improvement efforts, according to a press release.

This is the fourth four-year successful cycle of accreditation for Point in Time. The agency was first awarded accreditation status in 2012.

Point in Time is looking for three people to join its volunteer board of directors team. The agency is working on increasing skills in fundraising, facilities, and mental health, and are committed to looking for individuals who are or have previously used its services or similar services.

"There are many advantages to being on the board at Point in Time," said Marg Cox, executive director of the organization. "You can meet new people, learn new skills, learn more about the community, and contribute to the health of the organization."

The hard work, professionalism, and dedication of their staff and board of directors are clearly reflected in this significant achievement, said Cox.

"We are delighted with the overall result and the positive feedback from the accreditation surveyors," she said. "We've just undergone an extensive internal and external review process that measures our practices against sector and industry standards. It's clear from our results that our Board, leadership and staff teams have all worked very hard to maintain a high quality of governance, operations and program and service delivery."

The CCA report stated that the agency "excels in fostering an inclusive environment by prioritizing diversity … demonstrates a strong commitment to effective governance … and has established robust mechanisms to ensure annual confirmation of licenses, professional liability for regulated professionals."

The report further states: The agency effectively uses public education activities to support its organizational priorities and respond to evolving community needs. The review team noted that the organization prioritizes the professional well-being of its clinical staff through regular and structured clinical supervision … (and) demonstrates a strong commitment to accessibility to tailoring its engagement initiatives to the schedules and needs of the children, youth and families it serves.

Anybody interested in volunteering for the a seat on the board, which requires just one evening monthly, can call 705-457-5345 or email: info@pointintime.ca.

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Folk fun

The 2025 Winter Folk Camp concert series was held over March 1 and 2 at Camp Wanakita in Haliburton. The two-day event featured artists Rob Lutes, Coco Love Alcorn, Caroline Brooks, Katherine Wheatley, Thom Lambert, Cara Luft, and more.

The popular evening of music and stories is a part of the annual Winter Folk Camp, which is an opportunity for musicians - and those interested in learning more about music - to gather together and dedicate their time and energy to the craft. The camp culminates with a show that is open to the public, and visitors and locals alike filled the cozy hall at Wanakita over the weekend to hear a variety of folk music, words, and poetry. /TIM YANO staff photographer

points of view

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Editorial

Try

WHEN I WAS in high school - yes, our own Haliburton Highlands Secondary School - not so very long ago, we held a mock election.

It was a good opportunity to understand the platforms of the major parties, and how elections would work, since many of us were on the cusp of our voting age anyway.

Once the civics teachers went through each party platform and the students had a chance to talk with one another, we cast our votes.

The results were overwhelmingly orange.

Yes, students at our local high school, not so very long ago, all believed in the NDP.

emily stonehouse

I remember thinking that perhaps that would play a part how our riding could look as time went on. That we would shift from blue to orange as the high school students of the early 2000s got out and made their voices heard.

Spoiler alert: nothing changed.

As I watched the live map shift and glitch on election night; the greys of each chunk of Ontario slowly shifting from light blue to indicate a Conservative lead to dark blue once they secured the win, I felt defeated.

This election seemed important. Over the past two years (yes, only two years. Doug Ford was supposed to wait four years but had a temper tantrum and spent $189 million of our money to secure his position again because he didn't feel like waiting), we've watched Ontario fall apart.

Hospitals are struggling. We know that all too well. Schools are overflowing. Teachers, nurses, mental health staff, they're quitting because they are not compensated for the challenges they are faced with each and every day.

This isn't the same Ontario it was two years ago.

But to more than half the province, that didn't matter. The Elections Ontario website noted that of the 11 million eligible voters, approximately five million showed up to cast their votes. That's about 45.4 per cent of voters.

In our own riding, 48.91 per cent of registered electors showed up. Again, less than half of us. PC MPP Laurie Scott won with 51.95 per cent of those votes.

Now don't get me wrong, I am looking forward to Scott's new term. She says she's got some projects that need finishing, and I am curious to see what that looks like for our community. But my disappointment lies in the complete disinterest of our voter population.

I've heard some say that the votes don't impact them. That perhaps they are not drudged down day-to-day by the provincial government's decisions. It's not relevant to them. It's not important.

And if that's the case (which, spoiler alert: it's not, but let's pretend it is), then why wouldn't you do it for others? When you cast your vote, it should never be just for you. It should be for your community, for your family, for your neighbours.

It should be for the hospitals that you visit, the schools your children attend, the forests you hike through, the people who so often get overlooked.

I'm disappointed in the results; in the disinterest, in the care shown from our community for the betterment of our province as a whole.

My last push is to advocate for our voices. Take politics off the taboo table. Teach civics in schools again. Have raw, open dialogue about what our leaders are doing for us. Ask questions. Research answers. Learn more. Talk. Don't stay silent. Just please, simply try.

And maybe next time it will be different.

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Unlike last year, this year, March 'came in like a lion' according to our local wildlife. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Our road

White world

Down

sharon lynch

IT FELT LIKE the whole house was falling apart. Starting with a rumble that grew louder as it gained momentum, the mountain of snow crashed onto the back deck bringing down bird feeders and some tenuous fencing nearby. Rick looked out the patio doors to a newly obstructed view of his backyard.

Ah winter, he thought. Snow and ice, shovel and salt, wood stove and firewood. But he knew the roof shedding its foot of snow was a good sign. While not yet present, spring was on the way. Soon it would be the muddy season where the earth tried to hold onto rubber boots and dogs looked like they needed a bath after every walk.

How Rick's life had changed. There was a time when he lived on a country road that turned into an ice rink this time of year. Between the warming sun hitting the road's surface and his lack of snow tires, venturing into town in the early spring had felt like a game of Russian roulette. Would he make it or end up buried in a snowbank?

One night he had been coming back from town, groceries in the trunk, when he slid on a curve and into the ditch. His neighbour Joe had been having a smoke outside and witnessed the event. And neighbours being what they are, it took no time for Joe to hook up some chains and pull Rick out and back onto the good side of winter transportation. Joe looked at Rick, then at the pretty smooth tires on his car and shook his head. "I know, I know", said Rick. That was the last winter he went without.

After that incident Rick made two decisions. He bought the snow tires and he invited Joe for a spaghetti dinner as a thank you. Rick was a bachelor and had limited culinary skills back in those days. However he prided himself on his spaghetti dinners. They might not have been orthodox as far as ingredients went but the taste was always a success. So as the two bachelor neighbours tucked into pasta with rabbit sauce, and being Canadian, they talked about the weather.

Rick felt there had been more snow than usual that year and Joe agreed. He noted he had never seen such a load on his shed and hoped the roof would hold. Rick said he'd give Joe a hand if he wanted to shovel it clear.

Joe liked that idea and said if Rick helped him with that, then the two of them should reward themselves with a snowmobile run.

Rick didn't have much experience with snowmobiles. He'd only been on one once as a passenger but he'd enjoyed it. A lot. On the other hand, Joe sledded regularly and had a couple of machines parked in his shed where he tinkered with them in his spare time.

So it was decided. The next Saturday Joe did a quick lesson on riding a snowmobile for Rick's benefit before the two men headed out. Joe suggested they catch a trail on the other side of the pond and head north toward the Park.

It couldn't have been a better day. Bright sunshine tempered a slight wind out of the west as they began. Making their way past the beaver dam, Rick couldn't help but be amazed at what those lumpy Canadian symbols managed to accomplish with sticks and mud. Of course there was no sign of the beaver. On the other side of the pond the trees grew thick and close together beside the groomed trail. Long shadows slid across the snow where the sun had made its way between the birch and pine.

As he steered his machine behind Joe's, Rick realized he hadn't once thought about the many worries dogging his usual thoughts. No concerns about overdue bills, needed car repairs or the mountain of snow on his own roof. Instead he was enjoying being in the moment. The white world surrounding him was all that mattered. The rest would still be there after the ride. But for this bit of time, Rick was free of those thoughts. If only he could live his life on a snowmobile trail.

points of view

Loon Tales

steve galea

Text appeal

OK, HERE'S A dirty little secret. I text message myself. All the time, in fact.

I don't just do this to have the experience of receiving a text from someone brilliant. Rather, I do it because of this column.

I have been writing this column almost every week for the last 26 years and, as regular readers might have surmised based on the last 25, good ideas are really hard to come by. That's why, these days, if I come up with one, I immediately text it to myself, instead of just yelling "Eureka!" and hoping that I'll remember it, because I never do.

This system works for me.

But the other day, if not for the safeguards that prevent texting random people, I could have conceivably caused harm.

You see, I was working on a Sudoku puzzle, like all the cool kids do on a Saturday night, when I yelled "Eureka!", this time not because I had a good column idea, but rather because I found where the number two was supposed to go. (Pro tip: Never mumble that aloud when anyone is within earshot.)

Jenn, who was within earshot, looked at me uncomfortably, until I explained.

Then she said, "Oh, you just had a Sudoku breakthrough. Thank goodness."

Then I yelled, "Eureka!" again. For I thought the phrase "Sudoku breakthrough" could either be a column or the name of the tuba-based punk band I have always dreamed of starting. So, I texted those two words to myself.

Unfortunately, when I typed my name in the recipient box I also typed 'Sudo', because I started typing "Sudoku breakthrough" thinking I was now in the message box. Realizing my mistake, I went to the message box and typed "Sudoku breakthrough," but forgot to untype Sodu as a recipient.

The long and short of it is, the phrase "Sudoku breakthrough" was sent to me and a fellow named Sodu. Luckily, I have no one of that name in my address book, so that message was not delivered.

Good thing. This could have been a disaster.

For instance, let's say Sodu lived in an authoritarian regime, and was suspected of spying for the rebels. Now, imagine him in an interrogation room when, just as his interrogators are about to let him go, he suddenly receives a text with the phrase "Sudoku breakthrough".

"Explain this?" they yell, thinking it is some sort of coded message.

Naturally, he has no idea what to say, and before long he is doing hard time in a gulag, cursing my name. Dreaming of the day he will get his revenge on me is all that keeps him going. And some five years later, when the rebels finally overthrow the regime, he comes to track me down.

"What was that about?" he'd yell angrily.

"Oh that. I seem to recall texting you by accident," I'd reply. He would then take my phone from my pocket and stomp on it.

If that's not a great argument for the safeguards put in place so that middle-aged guys like me can't just accidentally text anyone in the world without having their phone number, here's an even worse scenario.

What if I happened to text Sodu just as he was sitting in a coffee shop with a bunch of punk rockers who all played tubas?

"Anyone have a cool name for our band?" one of them would ask.

Sodu, just then, gets my text and smiles.

"Hey guys," he says, "I think I have a great one…."

pic *of the* past

A picture of some of the members of the Sisson family from West Guilford, around 1985. Pictured, front row from left, Vivian Tilbury, Ina McGuire, May Horsley. Back row from left, Holly, Raymond, Maxwell, Brant, Carl, Donald. At the time, these were the nine surviving members of the family of Mark and Sarah Jane Sisson from West Guilford. /photo submitted by Louise Sisson

Letters to the editor

A change in politics?

To the Editor,

A big congratulations to our MPP, Laurie Scott. Laurie has represented Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Brock for, I believe, the seventh time, a remarkable accomplishment. Ms. Scott won with over 52% of the votes cast.

A recent article in the *Haliburton Echo* titled *Scott skips candidates debate; left reps show up* highlights an interesting change in politics. In times past, debates were a key strategy for success in elections. Most ridings held neutral debates, often run by the Chamber of Commerce. If the debates were neutral, the candidates would be enticed to show up and demonstrate their debating skills.

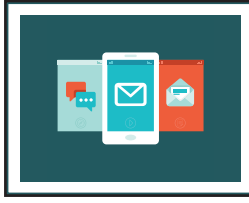
More recently, local candidates often skip debates to focus on grassroots door-to-door campaigning. The respective leaders will do one or two televised debates so voters can hear the leaders and understand their policy choices. Why the change? A debate takes time for candidates, especially incumbents, to prepare. The debate takes hours from when the candidate shows up to when they leave. Most people attending local debates have already decided who to support and are unlikely to be swayed by anything they hear.

A single-issue debate is much worse and historically not attended by incumbents of any political party. The one highlighted in the story was an example. Further, according to the *Echo*, it was viewed by only 50 people. Elections Ontario's unofficial results show that over 51,000 people voted. So, those who tuned in online represented a very small number of people who were engaged enough to vote.

Will local candidate debates happen in the federal election? I don't know, but if people want to see the local candidate from any party, a quick phone call to the campaign office will likely get a response and a return call. Having meaningful one-on-one discussions with the people asking for your vote is often a better solution to get questions answered. People must be engaged with their candidates to ensure their voices are heard.

Kelly Mitchell,
Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

It was an eventful month at Hal High as we started a new semester and jumped back into classes. HHSS is almost a month into semester two, meaning that clubs have started up again after taking a break for exams, and many sports teams ended the season at full force as we are now transitioning into a new season.

There has been lots of excitement in sports at HHSS as our winter sports are wrapping up and spring sports are beginning. The senior girls volleyball team had been working and practicing hard since November when their season started. They had an exciting end to their season after they made it to COSSA (Central Ontario Secondary School Association) and played hard right up until the end.

The junior girls volleyball team, who had also been practicing since before Christmas, won their Kawartha Qualifying tournament, putting them in the perfect position to also place first at Kawarthas. After that, the team continued on to host COSSA at Hal High where they ended their season strong.

The junior boys basketball team just wrapped up an exciting season. After winning their Kawartha tournament, the boys continued on to COSSA where their long lasting season came to an end. Additionally, the senior boys basketball team played hard throughout their whole season. The team finished as finalists in the Kawartha tournament, qualifying them for COSSA where their season came to an end.

The Nordic skiing team went to OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association) earlier this month, where they had lots of success! Competing in pools of 150+ people, many HHSS students placed with fantastic scores. The OFSAA team consisted of 18 athletes, new and returning, from all grades.

Our wrestling team had various great matches in their COSSA tournament last month and will be sending two boys to the OFSAA tournament in early March! Students and coaches look forward to the upcoming spring sports season, including badminton, soccer, track, and rugby, which will be starting as soon as possible!

Clubs at HHSS are all back up and running after a brief break during exams. While most clubs are continuing on from last semester, the HHSS Drama Club had some exciting news: the club announced their spring show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Auditions were held on Feb. 10 and 11, and the cast was announced three days later, on Feb.14. Director Rebeka Borgdorff (French and English teacher) and Assistant Directors/Stage Managers Christine Carr (French, English, and Leadership teacher) and Meghan Mardus (French and Drama teacher), with support from Tim Nicholson and Ella Leis from Ctrl-ART-Del, began blocking the show and preparing for the production. The team will work with students on developing their characters, on stepping outside of their comfort zones, and on their use of Shakespearian language. The cast will continue to work hard at rehearsals so that they are ready to perform their show at the end of May. Tickets will be available at the door on the production days.

With February including the Valentine's Day holiday, Elizabeth Mathew, Hal High's G7 student representative, ran Kindness Week earlier this month to celebrate encouraging and showing kindness to one another. This was an event that was run by G7 representatives at each of the Secondary schools in TLDSB. To celebrate Kindness Week, Elizabeth worked with the students of Hal High to write encouraging messages that were placed around the school as well as leading other kindness-inducing activities. In addition to Kindness Week, HHSS participated in Pink Shirt Day to promote anti-bullying, led by the Recreational Leadership Class.

With the start of a new semester, HHSS students are busy starting their new courses and getting back into the groove. We look forward to the new semester at HHSS with much excitement for what will come next!

By: Annabelle Borgdorff (Gr. 12), Willow Brown (Gr. 12), Dagon McIvor (Gr. 12), , Parker Pietryszyn (Gr. 12), and Clarke Turner (Gr. 11)

HCDC celebrates 10 Years of its Local Initiatives Program

Local Not-for-Profit and Community Organizations are welcome to apply to the Haliburton County Development Corporation's Local Initiatives Program (LIP).

Now entering its 10th year, LIP funding has been a catalyst for extraordinary community led initiatives across the Haliburton Highlands. From April 2015 to February 2025, LIP has now distributed over $615,000 with an overall community impact of $2,484,398. The goal of LIP funding is to strengthen our community by supporting projects that are incremental (new initiatives or enhancements/additions to existing activities) and strive to enhance the resiliency and vibrancy of the Haliburton Highlands.

"The Local Initiatives Program has played a pivotal role in supporting local not-for-profit organizations and economic growth in our communities across the Haliburton Highlands. By providing our communities with the resources they need to thrive, we are fostering economic growth at the local level," said the Honourable Ruby Sahota, Minister of Democratic Institutions and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Groups such as The Sculpture Forest, Razzamataz Kids' Shows, and the Volunteer Dental Outreach have all been recipients of LIP funding. "LIP funding has been extremely helpful in funding Razzamataz Kids' Shows! initiatives in the community. With this support, we continue to bring high-quality, affordable and culturally diverse theatre and workshops to children and families across the County," says Nicole Stewart, chair of Razzamataz Kids' Shows. LIP funds are also used to leverage additional dollars for larger scale projects, accessed by organizations such as the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation and The Haliburton Sports Hall of Fame.

The Local Initiatives Program funds important community conversations such as Housing Summits, the Teeny Tiny Summit, Local Food Networking and Environmental roundtables. "Central Food Network is grateful to HCDC & the LIP Program for investing in community resilience and vibrancy. We see firsthand how LIP support empowers local initiatives like ours that strengthen the Haliburton Highlands region in diverse and wonderful ways, creating lasting impact through dozens of meaningful community projects each year," says Tina Jackson, Executive Director of the Central Food Network. For the last decade, LIP funding has engaged almost 500 partners and leveraged over one million dollars since its inception. While mandated to do community economic development, HCDC is not funded to do so and has innovatively self-funded the Local Initiatives program through interest earned from its lending activities. Community Economic Development (CED) positively impacts Haliburton County's large not-for-profit sector.

Additionally, HCDC is known to create specialized programs to assist Haliburton County Businesses and Organizations at a time when a state of emergency or a natural disaster impacts our community. In 2020 HCDC created the LIP COVID Edition to support not-for profit organizations affected adversely by the pandemic. The program covered new expenses to respond to COVID-19 protocols or to assist with fixed operating costs, which could not be covered due to loss of revenue.

LIP applications are due March 11, 2025. HCDC is pleased to provide feedback and support for application development. Please visit our website for more information on eligibility and the application process.

The Haliburton County Development Corporation is supported by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

Submitted

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sports

Red Hawk pride

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Jr. Girls Volleyball team faced off against Centre Hastings High School last week in the COSSA semifinals in Haliburton. Despite a hard-fought game, the local girls lost 3-0, wrapping up their succesful volleyball season. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Winter(dance) wonderland

Winterdance Dogsled Tours, based off of Harburn Road in Haliburton, celebrated 25 years in business this past weekend, on March 2. The business hosted a community Open House, and invited many to come check out the facility, and meet the team (of both the human and dog varieties). Special guests included Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey, and recently-elected MPP Laurie Scott. This was the first year that Winterdance invested in a snow maker to sustainably continue business in a region with unpredictable winter weather. The owners, Hank and Tanya McCready, are thrilled about the success of the past 25 years, and are optimistic about the future. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Rusticals and Cidiots hits local airwaves

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Are you a theatre buff, but uninterested in leaving the comfort of your home? Then Canoe FM has just the thing for you.

The station will be debuting the Radio Playhouse production of *Rusticals and Cidiots,* written by first-time playwright Alyssa Diamond, and directed by John Jackson.

The comedy outlines the story of two families at odds with one another; one group as diehard locals in the rural cottage community, and the other, a new family of cottagers who are dead-set on changing everything and anything as the story progresses.

"I want to make it clear that none of the characters in my play are modelled in any way after anyone here," said Diamond, during a recent radio interview which dove into the storyline. "They are all 100 per cent invented."

Diamond originally hails from Toronto, but has had ties to the Haliburton Highlands for over a decade. What started as visits with friends quickly snowballed into Diamond purchasing her own cabin in the area eight years ago, which she has been chipping away at every time she visits. "I'm here as often as I can be, given that I still work in the city during the week," she said. "I love it here. There's so much going on, and I've made some great friends."

After some major life changes, the playwright registered in a course with Rural Rogues, a production company based out of the Haliburton Highlands, which focuses on local history, characters, landscape, and culture of the region. Taught by Michael Clipperton, Diamond dove into the ins and outs of the playwriting world - and clearly had a story bubbling to the surface.

Pictured, Kate Butler and John Jackson don eccentric outfits in a past Rural Rogues production. For the coming show, a radio play titled *Rusticals and Cidiots* written by first-time playwright Alyssa Diamond, Butler and Jackson will once again be acting, but this time, from behind a microphone, and airing to homes around Haliburton County and beyond. /FILE PHOTO

"It's funny," said director of the show, John Jackson, "as a part of the course, you are supposed to try writing a one-act play. Well, Alyssa wrote a three-act play instead," he chuckled.

The show was originally slated to hit the stage last summer, but for logistical reasons, it couldn't come to fruition. After a series of pivots and adaptations, Jackson and Diamond started brainstorming ways to get the show on the airwaves.

"We did it on a very collaborative basis," said Jackson. "We had to adapt a play as required for radio, which is no small feat."

Jackson noted that the absence of the visual element around theatre presents challenges when shuffling a show to the radio versus the stage. The playwright and producer began tackling the alterations in November, with the final show ready for listener's ears this coming week.

"One of the first steps we took, was the introduction of a narrator," said Jackson, explaining that there is now a consistent character who guides the show and allows for a natural flow and interpretation from listeners; even without the visual aids.

With eight roles in total, Jackson believes that the comedy will resonate with locals and visitors alike; with plucky teenagers to a bumbly by-law officer, there's something for everyone. "The show really identifies the challenges between locals and the visitors from the city," noted Jackson. "That is the essence of the story; a clash between the two. But it resolves quite nicely at the end."

The first episode of the play *Rusticals and Cidiots* by Alyssa Diamond will be presented on Canoe FM on March 5, with the second following on April 2. Once the show has aired, it will be added to the Canoe FM website, to allow listeners to catch up or re-listen at their convenience.

As a director and producer of the show, Jackson is thrilled with the final result of the humorous and heartwarming play. "Every actor is the star of the show," he said, "and it's a lovely little story."

‘Every tea party needs a fancy hat’

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Bark Lake Cultural Developments is putting together a Victorian Hat Workshop event led under the guidance of costume extraordinaire, Melissa Stephens. Stephens, a founding member of the Highlands Summer Festival, will be debuting the first Victorian Hat Workshop at the Irondale Church on April 12.

While finishing her practicum as a teacher, Stephens first became immersed in the word of costumes during a production of *My Fair Lady*. With a knowledge of sewing from a young age, she learned the tricks of the trade with creating costumes, hemming period pieces, and designing costumes.

This year, Stephens will be celebrating the Highlands Summer Festival’s 25th anniversary. As costume designer, Stephens manages the festival’s 40-foot container filled with their inventory of costume pieces. With a waste not, want not mindset, the Festival takes ample care of their period pieces to reuse again and again. Working with directors, Stephens locates costumes for productions either in their storage, at a thrift store, or makes the pieces by hand.

This year, their lineup of shows includes *Urinetown the Musical, The Fitzgeralds, Salt-Water Moon, Drinking Habits,* and *Feeling Buble*. Tickets for these shows can be purchased on their website highlandssummerfestival.on.ca. The Highlands Summer Festival also focuses on casting local talent whenever possible.

As a costumer, Stephens says that her favourite period of costumes is the period from the 1840s to 1900. With a variety of layers, including a bustle, bloomers and petticoat for women, and a wool suit and heavy coat for men, the Victorian era offers costuming challenges and layers of depth to ensure historical accuracy.

“Every tea party needs a fancy hat,” said Stephens.

Tea parties are a frequent event at the Irondale Church, organized by Bark Lake Cultural Developments. These tea parties offer the perfect event for Irondale residents to get out of their house, socialize, and enjoy delicious treats with a hot cup of tea.

Participants are instructed to bring materials such as lace, ribbons, pearls, sparkly beads, silk flowers, tulle, bias tape, and any other materials people are wanting to adorn to a hat. Long pins and sewing clips are needed to secure your work while you are decorating. All hats are welcomed, but straw, sun bonnet, and pill hats are some of the best choices for this workshop.

“I am excited to see their creativity,” said Stephens.

Stephens plans to instruct the class on simple techniques and safety precautions, but will be giving the class free reign to be as creative as desired.

“I’ll help them when they need to be helped,” said Stephens.

For those interested, it is recommended that you do not forget a glue gun, hats, and sewing supplies. There will be a limited amount of supplies available.

All participants are welcomed for this event.

“Don’t be afraid,” said Stephens. “We are not going to be judgemental. I don’t think you can go wrong.”

The Victorian Hat Workshop will be located at the Irondale Church on April 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person. There is a limited number of seats available for this workshop. Participants are asked to reserve your space ahead by calling Carol Simmons at 705-457-8438.

Community Coffee House focuses on a key to healthy aging

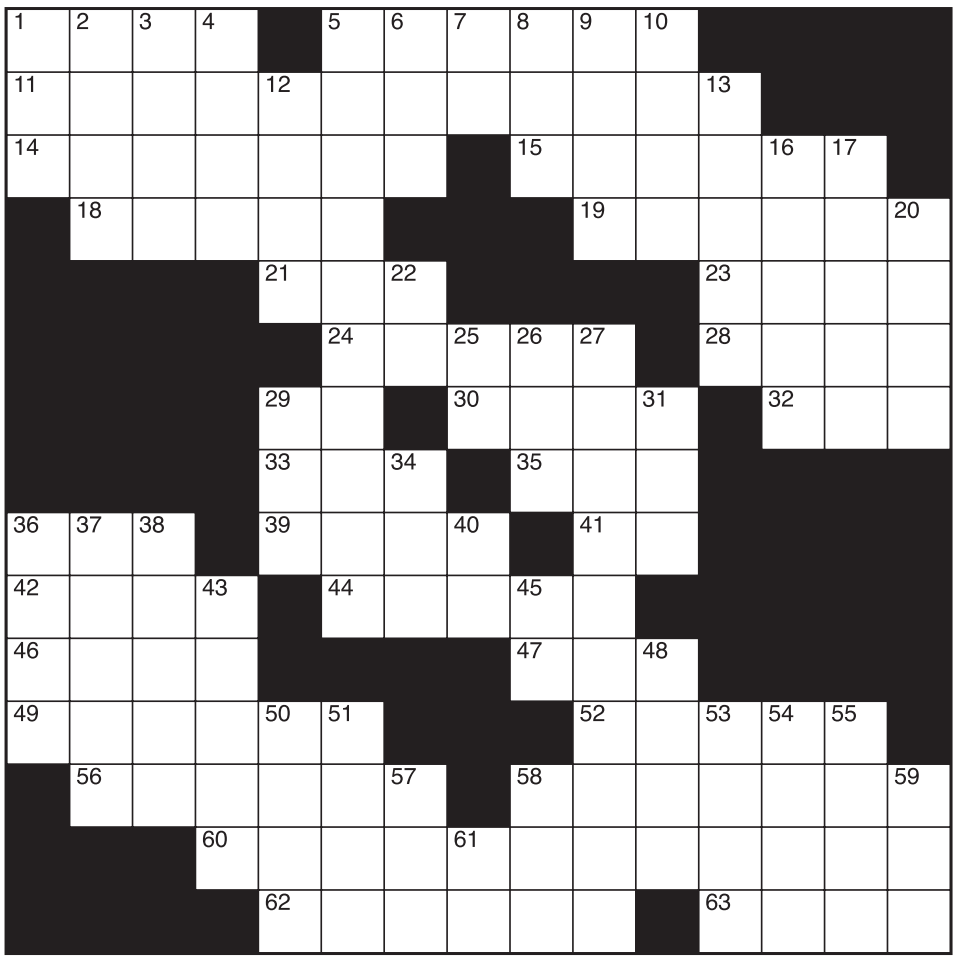
Are you interested in learning about a few simple changes you could make to improve your quality of life? Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre will discuss metabolic flexibility, the features of good metabolic health, and how we can make changes in this area to improve this aspect of our health at an upcoming Community Coffee House to be held Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Schofield Room of the Haliburton Legion.

Our musical guests, local musicians Brian Sachs and Peter Smith, will begin the evening with Celtic, folk and modern uplifting pieces.

This is one of a monthly series of meetings of topics related to making our communities better — and one way of doing that is to learn how we can help ourselves and others to be healthier members of these communities. Previous presentations under this heading have included Finding One’s Own Power to be a source for change in our communities, The Power of One related to the environment, Creating Places of Support in the field of Youth Mental Health and Social Media, Supporting our Youth in Challenging Times, and Addictions.

These gatherings are free of charge, open to all, with light refreshments available, and are hosted by the Baha’is of Haliburton to provide a place for safe and healthy discussion on issues of interest in the support and building of community.

Submitted



CLUES ACROSS
1. Garden tool
5. A way to preserve
11. Gratitude
14. Domestic sheep
15. Simpler
18. Cavities containing liquid
19. Large fish-eating bird
21. Ocular protection index
23. Phil __, former CIA
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Device
30. Actor Rudd
32. A pituitary hormone
33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
36. Young women’s association
39. Not shallow
41. Doctor
42. Furniture
44. Hindu male religious teacher
46. Highly spiced stew
47. A way to communicate
49. Almost last
52. Astronomer Carl
56. Small horses
58. A slender tower with balconies
60. A disrespectful quality
62. Fully shaded inner regions
63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN
1. Popular Sunday dinner option
2. Oil cartel
3. Agile
4. Greek goddess of discord
5. Genetically distinct variety
6. Indicates badly
7. Popular Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Within
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. A passport is one
25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
26. Swiss river
27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives
31. Portable computer screen material
34. A crying noise of a bird
36. Sticky, amorphous substance
37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
38. Type of acid
40. Partner to “Ma”
43. 16 ounces
45. The Bay State
48. A well-defined track or path
50. Substitution
51. Defined period
53. Group of toughs
54. Region
55. Famed Scottish Loch
57. Blood relation
58. Not around
59. Recipe measurement
61. Father to Junior

Answers on page 15

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Huskies howl!

In the last home game of the regular season, the Haliburton County Huskies faced off against the North York Rangers, and racked up an impressive score of 10-2 against the visiting team on Feb. 26. The Huskies will now be headed into their official playoff season. /TIM YANO staff photographer

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	S	A	G	■	E	A	R	B	M	U	■	■	■	■
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T	E	R	A	N	I	M	■	S	E	I	N	O	P	■
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Hyland Ice Supply is now accepting applications for the 2025 summer season for Drivers Helpers, Production Staff and Drivers (D, DZ, G). Interviews will be held early April. Please contact us via e-mail or telephone **info@hylandice.com** **705-448-2973** Attention Carol

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2 seasonal septic inspectors - wage: $24.57/hr – 40 hours/week

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking two (2) Seasonal Septic Inspectors to join our team. Reporting to the Supervisor of the Septic Maintenance Program, the Seasonal Septic Maintenance Inspector is responsible for carrying out roles associated with the program and inspection of licensed Short-Term Rentals. A detailed job description is available at www.dysartetal.ca/careers for your review.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably by email, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025, to the attention of Human Resources at hr@dysartetal.ca with Seasonal Septic Inspector 2025 as the subject.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
is currently recruiting for the following seasonal roles:

Three (3) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer(s)
DZ licence and experience with road maintenance and repair required.
Hourly rate is $27.47. Unionized CUPE position.

Two (2) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)
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G licence and current enrolment in an engineering program required.
Hourly rate is $25.47. Unionized CUPE position.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library is currently recruiting for a Communications Coordinator
This part-time position (28 hours per week) develops and implements strategies to increase the community's engagement with library services and provides admin assistance. Hourly wage range is $32.29 - $37.77.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions.
Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 10, 2025.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Andrea Maureen Austin

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Andrea Maureen Austin, 61, of Haliburton, Ontario, on February 17th, 2025 while at home with family.

She is survived by father Noel, brother Jeff and predeceased by her mother Eleanor.

Andrea was well known in the community for her kind, loving and compassionate personality, always ready to share one of her trademark hugs. She loved bowling and participated in many Special Olympic tournaments. She also enjoyed her part time job at Home Hardware until her recent retirement.

Andrea's departure leaves an unfillable void in our lives, yet we should find comfort in her memory of the love she shared with all of us.

Andrea was cremated as per wishes and no funeral is planned. A future church service will take place at St. Anthony's Church at a date TBD.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to HHHS.

LOT OF BOOKS WORD SEARCH

E	G	P	E	M	R	M	U	L	T	U	A	A	R	X	E	D	N	I	K
V	L	F	C	B	A	L	F	B	P	U	X	F	C	R	X	P	L	P	G
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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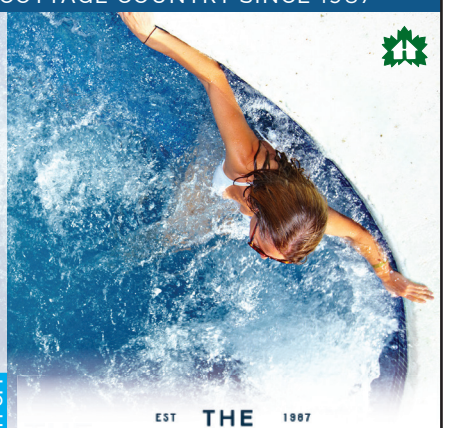

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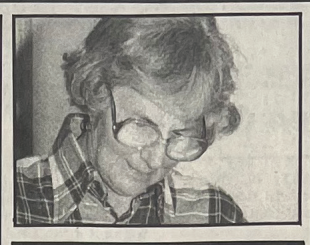
INSID HO

When Andrea and Beth Burton's house went up in flames last month, so did their music collection, but a Peterborough disc jockey organized a drive to start their collection again. More on page 3

After suffering an 8-2 defeat on Saturday night, the Midgets turned the tables on Sunday when they beat Hagersville 8-3. One more win takes them to the finals. For details, see page 6.



Seniors who enjoy a good cup of tea with their art exhibits are invited to attend a Seniors Tea held each month at the Rails' End Gallery. For more on how the gallery extends its reach, see page 7

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 106 No. 20 Wednesday, March 23, 1988 'The voice of the Highlands' 18 pages 50 cents

Townships debate amalgamation

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff reporter

In a move that is bound to spark a lot of debate, Bicroft Reeve Bill Howe has asked his fellow county council members to consider amalgamating some townships into larger municipalities.

For the May meeting, Howe wants members to come prepared to "discuss the current status of Haliburton," and in particular, "10 municipalities vs. the amalgamation of some existing municipalities with the end result being a maximum of five municipalities." However, he also stressed that this is "not to be construed as a regional government but to strengthen the current county system."

Councillors have to "set personal pride aside; we have to put the good of the county ahead first," Howe said as he introduced his proposal at *Wednesday's county council* meeting. He has read the provincial report on municipal government and agrees that under the present system there is too much overlap and waste.

"The more a system is streamlined, the better it is," he told his somewhat surprised audience. "The way the system is working is something we've got to look at in all seriousness."

Although replies weren't expected at this time, Murray Fearrey stood up to address his "fellow mayors" and to jest that perhaps a study ought to be conducted to investigate the issue, referring to the number of studies already being undertaken throughout the county, sometimes with little benefit.

Sunday shopping

There was a lot more discussion when it came time to endorse a resolution from the Association of Municipalities in Ontario, AMO, which criticizes the provincial government for passing the issue of Sunday openings onto the shoulders of individual municipalities.

"Family life has been fragmented enough already," Stanhope Reeve Harry Davis said as he suggested

Please turn to page 8

These members of the Haliburton Stage Band are very excited about the prospect of competing in a national championship in Calgary this May. The only problem is they need to raise $19,000 in order to fly everyone there and donations are quickly being requested. The jazz musicians are, from left: Front row: Chris Youngdale, Dianne Woods, Cliff Smith, Andy Cooper, Richard Beers, Tammy Pritchard, Greg Hamilton and Nick Holliday-Rhodes. Middle Row: Nicole McNab, Cory Ziorjen, Kendall Mintz, Brad Archer, Alison Bain, Dianne Garbutt, and Graham Robinson. Back row: Teacher Rick Vaughan, Michael Wray, Justin Gentle, Terry Noble, Ian Hicks, and Chris Bunker.

Band invited to nationals

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff reporter

The HHSS Stage Band has rhythm. It has music. It even has both girls and boys playing their various instruments. But when it comes to "Who can ask for anything more," the band breaks away from the rest of this popular Gershwin song: These musical contenders for a Canadian championship want to ask their community for a big favour—financial support to the tune of $19,000.

Last month, 18 members of the 23-piece jazz band competed in a highschool festival in Bracebridge. On the Monday of the March Break, music teacher Rick Vaughan learned that the band had won a "gold standard" at the festival, earning it the right to compete in MusicFest '88, a Canada-wide competition to be held in Calgary, Alberta from May 18 to 22.

When the phoning network and word-of-mouth spread the news to the band members, they were ecstatic, as this is the first time a Haliburton band has been asked to compete in the nationals. That initial enthusiasm has been a bit daunted by the prospect of raising the funds to get the band to Calgary and back, but in an interview with Richard Beers, president of the band, and Corry Ziorjen, past president, their youthful optimism makes them confident they can succeed.

The money is needed to help pay for the airfare, accommodation and expenses of the four-day competition which will also include seminars, workshops, and evening performances by professional bands. It's the chance of a lifetime, especially for the older band members who comprise the majority of the band. Ten players are in Grade 13, four in Grade 10 and four from Grades 10 and 11. (There are 23 members in the band but a maximum of 18 can compete. However, Vaughan would like to give all the members a chance to benefit from the activities and excitement of the competition.)

Music Fest Canada works in conjunction with Toronto travel company which will be arranging group discounts and packages. Band members will be asked to contribute part of the costs, but Vaughan feels that because the trip is compulsory, students with less money should not be put under great pressure to raise a large amount of it themselves.

Considering that annual fundraising, such as the fruit sale and various "a-thons" raise only $3,000, the band has a lot of hustling to do between now and May 18. A letter has been written to various businesses and service organizations asking them to be as generous as possible and other events are in the works to encourage public support. (Band member Chris Bunker's father has already donated

Please turn to page 2

County budget '88:

Increase amounts to 1.3 per cent

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff reporter

County finance commitee chairman Murray Fearrey didn't have to be nervous as he stood up to present the county budget for 1988. When all is said and done, the increase from last year's budget only amounts to 1.27 per cent. That's a lot easier to swallow than the 30 per cent increase which was announced in 1987.

"There are no surprises," Fearrey told his audience last Wednesday. For the first time, the budget had been available for perusal at 10:30 that morning, giving council members an opportunity to look over the facts and figures before they were called upon to support it.

"We have tried to exercise restraints" and hold most increases to the 4.6 per cent inflation rate, Fearrey said.

Working within those confines, the management committee balanced requests for more funds with limiting support where it felt it was merited and came up with the final figure of $1,817,560, compared to $1,654,269 in 1987. The only major expenditure is the final payment of $133,200 for the Hospital Expansion fund and there is no debt being carried on from last year, which saw a surplus of $66,735.

"I don't think it's bad news for taxpayers," said Fearrey, who was later congratulated, on behalf of the management committee, for drafting such a good budget.

The following are some of the highlights of the 1988 county budget. All comparison are with the 1987 budget, although in many cases, actual spending either fell short of or surpassed these amounts:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Rising concern about the environment has resulted in a $4,500 increase in committee meeting fees so more special meetings can be attended; the clerk-treasurer has a $5,000 pay increase, bringing his salary up to $35,500, with an extra $1,100 being spent for benefits; because of a purchase of 2,500 county pins, the advertising budget rose from $675 in 1987 to $5,250 in 1988; improvements to county buildings, primarily the registry building, resulted in a $19,500 increase in the building maintenance and repair budget; legal fees are expected to increase by $1,400 as county finalizes its purchase of the railway bed; and because it was felt the working fund provision was not being increased fast enough, the committee added $10,000, bringing it up to $15,000. Total 1988 budget, $235,260; total 1987 budget, $193,043.

Costs are kept within the rate of inflation

PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY: The higher wolf bounty has resulted in an expected increase of $1,250 while the funds to the mutual fire aid remain the same. Total 1988 budget, budget, $4,250, total 1987 budget, $3,000.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: Because $200,000 must be spent on the Kennisis Lake Road, this budget has increased to $732,000 from $685,000 in 1987.

HEALTH SERVICES: The management committee had no control over a $4,000 increase in costs for the district health unit. Total 1988 budget, $213,200; total 1987 budget, $209,200.

SOCIAL AND FAMILY SERVICES: There is a $10,000 increase in budget for Hyland Crest, bringing it up to $225,000 and in social services, there is an increase of $14,000 which can be explained by the fact the county-wide services was not implemented for all of 1987. A $9,500 increase in funds to the Children's Aid Society is to cover costs of a larger staff. Total 1988 budget, $461,000; total, 1987 budget, $427,500.

RECREATION AND CULTUR-

Please turn to page 8

Haliburton optimistic new apartments can be built

by LEN PIZZEY
Editor

Haliburton has a very good chance of getting another government backed, 50 unit senior citizens apartment complex if enough affordable land can be found near the downtown core.

That is the view of the local committee which brought about the Parklane apartment complex that opened last year near Head Lake Park.

Committee members Wayne Wood, Jan Shipley, Cliff Dawson, Earl Shipley and Bruce McKay discussed the project with Dysart et al council on Monday afternoon, in the hope that council could help find the necessary land.

Former Dysart clerk Wayne Wood, acting as spokesman for the committee, said they are optimistic that the community can get another complex, perhaps even later this year, if an application can be submitted by the April 29 deadline.

"The chances of approval seem like they're very good" Wood said. The need is proven, "but where we're hung up is land."

A 50 unit building similar to the Parklane apartments would be 260 feet long and 60 feet wide, and would require space for 50 cars.

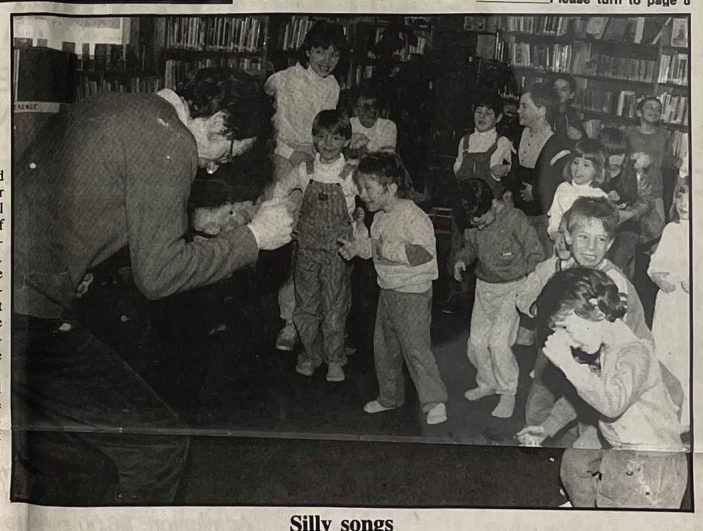
To further complicate the land problem, the application has to identify two appropriate sites, and the committee must place offers to purchase on them before the project could be approved.

Wayne Wood said one thought the committee has had is the railway lands between the Drag River and the eastern end of York Street. He acknowledged, however, that this location "could be awkward, both physically and politically."

Earlier in the day, reeve Murray Fearrey had told council that the railway lands were being discussed by some people as a possible site for the new apartments. But council agreed there were a number of significant problems with this location, some of them insurmountable. Council does not at present own the property, but leases it from Canadian National Railways. Some of it is used for parking, and it is probable that more of the land will be gravelled later this spring to help releive the acute main street parking problem. In addition, the site may be too small for an apartment complex of the size contemplated by the committee, particularly if the required 66 foot building setback from the Drag River is observed. And finally, the fact that the suggested lands abut the Texaco fuel storage complex could make the site unsuitable for a major structure, given the risk of fire.

Jan Shipley indicated the location of the new building is of primary

Please turn to page 3



Silly songs

Minden children who did not join the southern exodus during the March Break headed to the Minden Library instead where Alex Sinclair entertained them with his songs. Some of them were quite silly, but that made them all the more enjoyable to this young audience. The County Library and the Ministry of Citizenship and Communications sponsored the concert and others like it held in various branches throughout the county.

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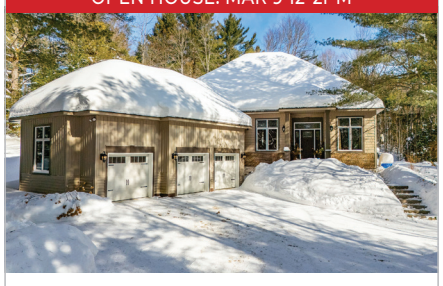

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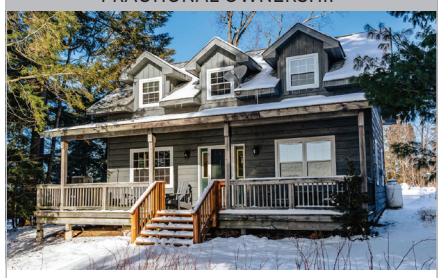

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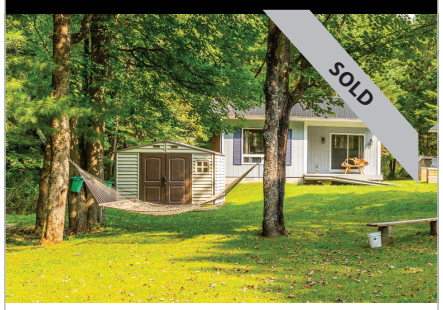

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